GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
FREEZING THE POWER OF TRAI ON ADC
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom (DoT) has freezed the powers of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of Access Deficit Charge (ADC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said decision will hamper the timely and scheduled reforms in ADC;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the speedy implementation of issues relating to Access Deficit Charge (ADC) as percentage revenue share would create a level playing field and will help private cellular operators to offer lower tariffs;

(f) if so, the reasons for delay in resolving the dispute between the TRAI and the DoT;

(g) whether the Government proposes to form the opinion on consultation papers floated during the last two years and formulate policy guidelines; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)& (b) No, Sir. The Department of Telecommunications has sought comments of TRAI for issuing directions on the matter of policy with respect to Access Deficit Charge (ADC).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Access Deficit Charge (ADC) as percentage of revenue share will address some of the incongruities of the present regime.

(f) Seeking comments on the policy issues as per the provisions of the TRAI Act, does not amount to a dispute between TRAI and DOT.

(g) & (h) Government proposes to form opinion on the basis of the response of TRAI while formulating the policy guidelines.